

USSN 09/618,129
Amendment and Response

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 12-13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As used herein, the term "terminator" or "chain terminator" is meant to refer to a nucleic acid base, such as A, G, C, T or U, or an analogue that effectively terminates the primer extension reaction when it is incorporated into the primer extension strand opposite the template strand. Preferably, the terminator is a dideoxynucleotide. Also preferably, the terminator is either unlabeled or is labeled so that it is distinguished from the label on the non-terminator. Also as used herein, when the term "terminator" or "chain terminator" are referred to in the singular, it does not mean that a single nucleotide molecule is used. Rather, the singular form of the term "terminator" refers to the type of nucleotide, nucleic acid base or nucleic acid analogue that is used in the assay. For example, if the terminator is ddA, then all of the ddA's in the aggregate are referred to in the singular form, and not just a single molecule of ddA. Alternatively, the "terminator" may be the absence of the specific type of nucleotide so that primer extension is stopped by the lack of the specific nucleotide at the locus. For example, if it is desired that the primer extension reaction be stopped opposite a "C" on the template strand, the non-terminating bases A, T and [[G]]C should be included in the primer extension reaction mixture, but not "G", which is the complement of "C". Thus, the absence of the complementary base will cause termination of the primer extension reaction with a similar result as adding a dideoxy terminator nucleotide, for example.